

outstanding volunteer work, serves as a community leader, role model or mentor, performs acts of generosity or kindness; and performs extraordinary feats locally or nationally.

The statement of purpose of the U.S. Olympic Committee in Atlanta says: "The committee for the Olympic Games seeks to honor America's community heroes, people whose service to others embraces the Olympic Spirit. For 84 days and 15,000 miles across America, Community Hero Torchbearers will bring the glow of the Olympic Flame to their communities along the route of the 1996 Olympic Torch Relay."

#### RURAL AIR SERVICE SURVIVAL ACT

HON. EARL POMEROY

OF NORTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 6, 1996*

Mr. POMEROY. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing legislation to ensure the future of commercial airline service in rural America.

When Congress passed the Airline Deregulation Act in 1978, it was understood that rural air service would deteriorate as airlines raced to compete in high-volume markets. Therefore, to preserve an integrated national air service network, Congress created Essential Air Service, a program to support air carriers that maintain routes in smaller, rural markets. For the last 15 years, EAS has continued to achieve this objective and has received bipartisan support in Congress.

A link to the national air transportation system must be maintained for rural states to foster economic development. The fact is that without reliable air service, it is difficult to retain existing businesses and industries, and even more difficult to attract new ones. As farming operations continue to mechanize and consolidate, rural America must aggressively pursue efforts to diversify its economy.

Key to that diversification is access to the national network of air transportation. With the air service supported by the EAS Program, small cities from North Dakota to Texas and Maine to California can market themselves to investors around the country and indeed around the world. However, if the EAS Program were discontinued and rural air service allowed to evaporate, it would be nearly impossible for communities in rural America to attract new business opportunities.

But EAS is about more than just rural economic development. Air travelers around the country, whether urban or rural, benefit from an interconnected, national air service network. In fact, the majority of passengers on EAS routes are not residents of EAS cities but people from around the country who are able to reach rural destinations thanks to this program.

In recent years, the EAS Program has been under increasing assault in the appropriations process. In fact, the fiscal year 1996 Transportation Appropriations Act reduced the program by over 30 percent, forcing airlines to sharply reduce the number of round trips in small cities across the country, threatening the viability of rural air service. The legislation I am introducing today will extract EAS from the an-

nual appropriations battle and give rural communities and air carriers a greater degree of certainty about the future of their air service.

The Rural Air Service Survival Act would transform EAS, placing the program on solid fiscal grounds by creating a required expenditure within the FAA budget. Funding for the program would be provided by a user fee assessed to foreign carriers that utilize U.S. air traffic control services. As a result, the legislation will have no impact on overall Federal spending. I should also point out that almost every major U.S. competitor nation levies similar overflight fees on foreign carriers.

Senator DORGAN introduced similar legislation in the Senate which was adopted by unanimous vote in the Commerce Committee as an amendment to the FAA reform legislation. I am hopeful that this proposal will be enacted as part of FAA reform when the House and Senate consider this legislation in the coming weeks.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all Members to cosponsor and support the Rural Air Service Survival Act.

WILLIAM V. "BILL" MOORE,  
PHOTOJOURNALIST EXTRAORDINAIRE

HON. RONALD V. DELLUMS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 6, 1996*

Mr. DELLUMS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate and chronicle the 28 year career of Mr. William V. "Bill" Moore, a photojournalist, who was honored on March 3, 1996. He is the first African-American full-time staff news cameraman on television in the State of California. He has been affiliated with KTVU Channel 2 in Oakland, CA, and for the past 5 years serving as chief photographer.

Bill is a native of Oakland and graduated from Oakland Technical High School. He attended Laney College and the California College of the Arts and Crafts, majoring in photography. Bill was a freelance photographer for the Associated Press before joining what was then a tiny news staff at KTVU Channel 2.

Bill's assignments ranged from the San Francisco Police Department Press for 5 years to U.S. Presidents since Richard Nixon. In between, he covered and recorded on film and tape the events related to the assassination of San Francisco Mayor George Mascone and the trial of his accused killer, Dan White, the antiwar and civil rights demonstrations of the 1970's; the Oakland-Berkeley hills fire storm of 1991; the 1989 and 1993 earthquakes in the San Francisco Bay Area and Los Angeles as well as the Nicaraguan earthquake in 1988; the O.J. Simpson murder trial; the training camps and opening season games of the Oakland A's, San Francisco Giants, and the San Francisco 49'ers. Bill did films for television on location in Haiti, Italy, and Brazil. His skill with the camera is as legendary as his good natured way of dealing with his fellow workers.

He is married to Belva Davis, an established and accomplished TV news personality, and

has 2 children, Steven and Darolyn. Bill is fondly known as Belva's husband. Let the record state that Bill is an all-around-nice-guy, and an accomplished professional.

William V. "Bill" Moore, photojournalist extraordinaire, and his contribution in documenting historic domestic and international news are a treasure of human events shaping the development and future of our world.

#### TRIBUTE TO PLATO (BUDDY) MATHIS

HON. CLIFF STEARNS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 6, 1996*

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an outstanding employee who has worked at Munroe Regional Medical Center in my home town of Ocala, FL. Munroe's longest serving employee and his name is Plato "Buddy" Mathis. He will be soon retiring.

Mr. Buddy Mathis' loyalty and dedication to Munroe spans over 50 years. He first came to work at the hospital in 1946 as a young boy. In fact, back then he had to stand on a wooden box to perform many of his chores.

Munroe Regional has seen many changes both in its physical makeup, not to mention changes in personnel. But, one thing that did not change over the years at Munroe was Buddy Mathis. He remained a constant in the lives of the people who worked in the medical center and a constant in the community.

Buddy should serve as a role model to all of us. He is the exemplification of the true work ethic. He started working at Munroe when he could barely reach the counter tops without standing on a box. And through the years he moved up, performing a variety of duties, including putting away stock and gathering vegetables from a small garden on the north side of the building. He also assisted fellow employees such as Felicia Stevens—head cook—Mrs. Annie Lee Stroud, and Mrs. Luella Strupp, among others.

In 1951, he joined the military to serve in the Korean war and served for several years. After the war, he returned to Munroe as a cook and was also in charge of inventory. He then attended night school under the GI bill and finished his education.

During the last 10 years, he and Jim Ruth have worked as a team, running the dietary department. Buddy has seen many changes take place in the building and operations of the hospital.

Everybody who has or is still working at the hospital loved working with Buddy and I'm sure they will all hate to see him go. Buddy is respected by all. I am pleased to be able to join with his many, many friends and colleagues in paying tribute to Plato "Buddy" Mathis for his hard work through the years and his kindness and generosity over the years.

I sincerely wish him the best in his retirement and congratulate him on his outstanding service to my hometown hospital, Munroe Regional Medical Center.